



U.S. Senator Judd Gregg, Chairman

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

For Immediate Release
Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Contact: Christine Iverson
(202) 224-6770

CHAIRMAN GREGG STATEMENT ON HOUSE PASSAGE OF IDEA REAUTHORIZATION

Washington, DC – Senator Judd Gregg (R-New Hampshire), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions today applauded the House passage of H.R. 1350, the Improving Education Results for Children With Disabilities Act of 2003, and issued the following statement:

“Thanks to House passage today, we are a significant step closer to reforming and reauthorizing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The House bill demonstrates thoughtful study and a careful review of the difficult issues involved in IDEA and it contains many essential improvements to the program.”

“As we speak, we are actively involved in negotiations on the Senate bill. Therefore it is too early to comment on similarities or differences between the existing House bill and the future Senate bill. However, we can say that the Senate bill will address many of the same issues. There is bipartisan agreement on promoting accountability, reducing paperwork, increasing parental involvement, encouraging research-based methods for improving student performance and providing new methods for parents and schools to address problems without fear of costly litigation.”

“We intend to complete our bipartisan negotiations on the Senate version of the IDEA reauthorization and introduce our bill by the Memorial Day recess. We will mark-up the bill shortly thereafter.”

###